

Vocabulary Set 7

Pundit

(n) a learned person; one with special knowledge or ability
syn: expert, authority, specialist

I'm no pundit when it comes to political debate - I don't even know the difference between the major parties!

Calumny

(n) the making of a false statement meant to injure one's reputation
syn: slander, defamation

Jealous of Rachel's new boyfriend, Tanya initiated the calumny that eventually spread around the entire high school - everyone heard the insulting rumors.

Pontificate

(v) talk in a dogmatic and pompous manner; act like a "know it all"
syn: expound, moralize, preach

Instead of impressing the History professors as he intended, my colleague came across as arrogant and annoying when he pontificated about which literature depicts the Middle Ages the best.

Bristle

(v) react in an offended or angry manner
syn: take umbrage, be offended, bridle

I spent the entire car ride listening to my sister bristle at my poor taste in music.

Litany

(n) any long, repetitive, and tedious account of something
syn: recital, listing

Instead of giving a litany of reasons I should not go to my friend's party, my parents only warned me to be safe and told me to call them if I needed a ride home.

Cerebral

(adj) involving intelligence rather than emotions; of the cerebrum of the brain
syn: cognitive, rational, intellectual

Many may think producing art is strictly a physical activity, but in fact it is an incredibly cerebral process.

Ascribe

(v) to refer to; attribute or credit to
syn: blame, assign

Researchers ascribe the increase in average weight of citizens living in Roof Town to the recent explosion of dessert shops.

Pariah

(n) an outcast
syn: a reject, outsider

His selfishness made him a pariah in the community that valued altruism and generosity.

Demur

(v) to raise doubts or objections; show reluctance
syn: protest; cavil

When asked to wash the dishes, the child demurred and sat by the television instead.

Leaven

(v) modify or transform (something) for the better; to cause to puff up (like bread in an oven); (n) a substance that is used to lighten or modify something else
syn: raise, modify, inspire

Your leaven for entering a top university will be scoring well on the entrance exam.

Furtive

(adj) stealthy; marked by secrecy; attempting to avoid notice or attention
syn: secretive, surreptitious

Because the celebrity couple was not yet ready to make their relationship known to the public, they went on many furtive dates together.

Pillory

(v) ridicule or attack publicly
syn: criticize, censure, denigrate

After the president's latest mistake, he found himself pilloried by even his most staunch supporters.

Erratic

(adj) not regular or consistent; unpredictable
syn: changeable, variable

Last summer, the prices on apples were erratic, ranging from \$0.50 to \$6.00 per pound!

Replete

(adj) completely stocked or well-supplied; full
syn: packed, crowded, overflowing

It took four months after the pandemic for grocery stores to be once again replete with toilet paper.

Fete

(v) to celebrate or honor; (n) a festival
syn: banquet, party

After her recent success at developing a vaccine, she was feted by researchers and scientists around the world.

Enmity

(n) a state of deep-seated ill-will
syn: hostility, animosity

After decades of enmity between each other, the two countries reached a peace agreement.

Moot

(adj) open to dispute or argument; undecidable in a meaningless way; having little relevance because the subject is too uncertain

syn: debatable, arguable

The city's plans to demolish the town hall are now moot, after the earthquake tore down the building.

Credence

(n) belief in something

syn: acceptance, faith

He lacked credence in financial advisors and managed his money on his own.